

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Daniel EGGER et al. Examiner:
Serial No.: To Be Assigned Art Unit:
Filed: May 15, 2001
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INDEXING, SEARCHING AND
DISPLAYING DATA (This application is a Divisional Application of U.S.
Patent Application Serial No. 09/071,120, filed May 4, 1998)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 2, line 2, after "This application" insert – is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/071,120, filed May 4, 1998, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INDEXING, SEARCHING AND DISPLAYING DATA, (which is hereby incorporated by reference) which --;

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-98. Please add claims 125-144 as follows:

125. A method for arranging a desired number of activated windows of information for display on a screen connected to a computer, wherein the desired number is the number of activated windows to arrange for display on the screen in a particular format, and wherein the computer activates windows, the method comprising:

identifying activated windows for display, wherein the number of activated windows identified for display equals the desired number of activated windows to be displayed in the particular format, wherein the desired number of activated windows

to be displayed is greater than one, and wherein the most recently activated windows are identified for display;

arranging the identified windows on the screen for display in the particular format, wherein the identified windows are visibly arranged; and

wherein each time a new window is activated the steps of identifying and arranging are repeated.

126. The method of claim 125, further comprising choosing the desired number of activated windows to arrange on the screen in the particular format.

127. The method of claim 125, wherein the desired number of activated windows to arrange on the screen is a default value.

128. The method of claim 126, further comprising recognizing one or more activated windows which have not been identified for display and will not be arranged for display on the screen in the particular format.

129. The method of claim 128, wherein an activated window not identified for display may be represented on the screen with a representative display, the method further comprising representing one or more recognized windows on the screen with a representative display.

130. The method of claim 129, wherein the representative display is an icon which graphically represents the recognized window and wherein the icon is displayed simultaneously with an identified window.

131. The method of claim 130, further comprising minimizing the recognized window.

132. A method for displaying active information windows on a screen, wherein the information windows are generated by a computer and the screen is operably connected to the

computer, and wherein the information windows may be displayed in two or more formats, comprising:

identifying at least one active window, wherein the identified windows will be displayed in a first format on the screen,

recognizing at least one active window, wherein the recognized windows will be displayed in a second format on the screen, and wherein none of the identified windows are recognized; and

generating a display on the screen for viewing identified windows and recognized windows, wherein a first format display is generated for each of the identified windows, wherein a second format display is generated for each of the recognized windows, and wherein the second format is different from the first format, comprising:

arranging the first format displays and second format displays for display on the screen, wherein the computer is used in the arranging step; and

repeating the steps of identifying, recognizing and generating when a new window is activated.

133. The method of claim 132, wherein the steps occur automatically each time a new window is activated.

134. The method of claim 132, wherein the second format is graphic icons and the graphic icons are arranged to overlay on the first format display, and wherein the method further comprises arranging the graphic icons, wherein the graphic icons are arranged in an orderly fashion.

135. The method of claim 132, wherein the first format displays are arranged vertically side-by-side.

136. The method of claim 132, wherein the first format displays are arranged horizontally.

137. The method of claim 132, wherein the generating step further comprises minimizing the recognized windows.

138. The method of claim 132, wherein a database manager is used, and wherein the step of generating further comprises accessing a database of information and using the accessed database information to generate the first format displays.

139. A database management system using windows of information and auto-arranging of the windows, wherein each time a previously inactive window is activated the system autoarranges the windows for display on a screen, comprising:

a memory, wherein data for use in generating information windows is stored;

a processor, operably coupled to the memory, that auto-arranges the windows of information; wherein the windows of information are automatically arranged, the processor comprising:

means for generating windows of information using data from the memory; and

means for auto-arranging windows of information into an arranged format, wherein more than one window may be arranged, and wherein each time a previously inactivate window is activated, all the active windows are arranged so that the arrangement of windows changes each time a previously inactivate window is activated; and

a screen, operably coupled to the processor, wherein the screen displays the information windows in an arranged format.

140. The database management system of claim 139, wherein the means for auto-arranging windows comprises:

means for determining windows to be arranged in a first format and windows to be arranged in a second format, wherein at least one window is determined to be arranged in the first format.

141. The database management system of claim 139, wherein the windows determined to be arranged in the second format are represented by graphical icons and are displayed in a lower portion of one or more of the first format windows.

142. The database management system of claim 139, wherein the arranged format is a targeted format chosen by a user of the database management system, further comprising:
means for choosing a target format.

143. The database management system of claim 142, wherein the user may enter a customized target format, further comprising:
a keyboard, wherein the customized target format may be entered.

144. The database management system of claim 142, wherein the user may choose from several different formats, the data management system further comprising:
means for displaying a list of formats to be chosen.

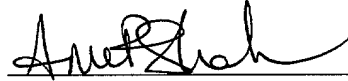
REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-98 have been cancelled and claims 125-144 have been added. Prompt examination and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. No new matter is introduced.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any deficiencies in connection with the new added claims to deposit account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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